

Minutes of the meeting of the  
**Environment Committee**

held in Town Council Office, Castle Park  
On **Tuesday 2 February 2016**, at 7pm



**Present:** Cllr A Oulton (Chair), Cllr C Ashton (Vice Chair), Cllr L Jones, Cllr M Poulton, Cllr F Sutton, Mr J Beswick, Mr T Blundell, Mr G Bondi, Mr H Smallman and Mrs A Scriven (Office Manager)

**In Attendance:** Mr J Gascoyne (member of Peak and Northern Footpath Society and Mr Alan Arthur (Frodsham Transition Initiative)

**Meeting 7**

No	Item	Action
97	<b>Apologies</b> were received and accepted from Cllr Brown, Cllr Knowles and Mrs Shaw	
98	<b>Declarations of Interest:</b> Cllr Sutton declared an interest in matters relating to Crowmere, Marl Pits and footpath 17 and Mr Bondi declared an interest in matters relating to footpath 8.	
99	<b>Minutes of Meeting 6 held on 7 December</b> were agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.	
100	<b>Discrepancies of last minutes:</b> none	
101	<b>Opportunity for the Public to Speak:</b> no requests received.	
102	<b>Marshlands</b>	
102.1	<i>Leaning Tree:</i> the tree has not yet completely fallen, but is now in a dangerous state and if it should fall will cause damage to the fence. It was agreed that Cllr Oulton would cut down the tree on Friday morning at 10am. The Facilities Manager would join him if possible. Cllr Oulton agreed to ensure the Cricket Club are made aware.	<b>AO</b>
102.2	<i>Proposals for the Area:</i> Cllr Jones reported on his progress in applying for grants for improvements to Marshlands and Hob Hey Wood and will bring any further details to the next meeting. Various options for dealing with Marshlands were discussed with the main points raised as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to decide what is wanted from the area</li> <li>• Need to prove the area is wanted by the people of Frodsham</li> <li>• Concerns about ongoing maintenance costs, even if funds are raised to carry out improvements in the first place.</li> <li>• FTI have a project on volunteers and agreed to help if they are able.</li> <li>• The area could benefit from a 'Friends of Secret Frodsham' group of volunteers, which would be dedicated to maintaining the less obvious areas of Frodsham.</li> <li>• A management plan and mission statement must be in place – <i>the committee are asked to bring suggestions for this to the next meeting.</i></li> </ul> It was agreed that while a decision on the future of Marshlands is considered, the Facilities Manager should begin work on a hard cut back of the overgrown areas.	<b>All Members</b>
102.3	The loose manhole cover on the drain in Greenfield Lane is to be reported to CWC Highways. It was noted that enquiries should be made as to whether the pumps on the Marshes have been turned off, as this would possibly explain the ongoing issue with this manhole.	<b>AS</b>
103	<b>Tree Matters</b>	
103.1	Mr Blundell confirmed the presence of honey fungus and it was agreed to treat the area with a fungicide, leave it for 12 months and then replant. The contractors are to be asked to use caution with the strimmer around newly planted trees.	<b>AS</b>
103.2	<i>Coppicing and thinning work required to be carried out at Hob Hey Wood.:</i> ongoing	<b>GMB</b>
103.3	Tulip tree in Castle Park: CWC have confirmed that they hope to plant in the spring.	
103.4	<i>Request from Frodsham Transition Initiative for more FTC land to be made available for planting Community Orchards:</i> Mr Arthur (FTI) stated that they encourage the support of greenspace in Frodsham and the planting of trees. They wished to stress that they valued the support of FTC. <i>Mr Arthur left the meeting.</i> Mr Blundell stated that the FTI were hoping to plant some more orchards around Frodsham, but their choices of land belonged to CWC. It was agreed that the FTI could put in a request for use of the land in question and could state that FTC supported the project.	

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<b>104</b>	<b>Rights of Way Maintenance</b>																												
104.1	Mr Gascoyne stated that there were blockages on footpath 5 and rupp 9 and also that the north end of footpath 76 does not bend as shown on the definitive map. Mr Gascoyne confirmed that he has been asked to carry out a thorough survey of all of Frodsham's footpaths for his group and may have to issue legal documents if footpaths are not kept to a good standard.																												
104.2	Upgrade of footpath 8 to a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT): a review of evidence has taken place and further details are expected within the next 3 months.																												
104.3	It was noted that the CWC Footpath Volunteer Project has been cancelled.																												
104.4	Cllr Jones' proposal to apply for grants for improvements at Hob Hey Wood and Marshlands is ongoing.																												
<b>105</b>	<b>Hob Hey Wood</b>																												
105.1	The purchase of the piece of track leading up to the new land at Hob Hey Wood has been confirmed and the document is to be signed by the Clerk.																												
105.2	Boardwalks – The Facilities Manager has made recent emergency repairs to the boardwalks and will obtain 2 further quotes for the weld mesh (if possible)	<b>PM</b>																											
105.3	2 posts with barbed wire on are to be removed from near the main central bridge.	<b>PM</b>																											
<b>106</b>	<b>Memorial Field</b>																												
106.1	<i>Poppy Area</i> : the area is to be sprayed with weed killer, prior to being rotavated in April.	<b>PM</b>																											
<b>107</b>	<b>Marl Pits</b>																												
107.1	Work on the tree to be felled is ongoing.																												
<b>108</b>	<b>Parish Paths - Parish Paths Monitor List – deferred to next meeting.</b>																												
<b>109</b>	<b>Pond Trail</b>																												
109.1	Cllr Sutton reported that Crowmere Lake needs to be netted again and quotes for this work are to be sought. An EP was made that the larger fish should be removed as soon as possible, subject to the obtaining 3 quotes, at a cost of no more than £500.																												
<b>110</b>	<b>Festival of Walks</b> : all is proceeding well with the preparations for the 2016 Festival of Walks.																												
<b>111</b>	<b>Business Plan 2016-17 and associated budget</b> : updated total of £9,848 (see below) was noted.																												
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<b>112</b>	<b>Any other matters considered to be urgent for discussion, or item for next agenda</b>																												
112.1	Fly tipping at the motorway bridge area of Hares Lane is to be reported to CWC																												
112.2	Reports of an ash tree with overhanging branches is to be passed to CWC Highways Department.																												
<b>113</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b> : Tuesday 5 April 2016																												

**Meeting Closed 9.30am**

#### **Executive Powers**

**EP1:** That the larger fish should be removed from Crowmere Lake as soon as possible, subject to the obtaining 3 quotes, at a cost of no more than £500 (see item 109.1)

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dated** \_\_\_\_\_

Committee: Cllr C Ashton, Cllr L Brown, Cllr L Jones, Cllr R Knowles, Cllr A Oulton, Cllr M Poulton & Cllr F Sutton

Town Clerk: Mrs H Catt

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